

Darlington / Dublin Community Council

September 18, 2013

Harford County Sheriff's Office update – Captain Jack Meckley, HCSO

- Crime Analysis Unit handouts distributed to council
- Harford County has 10 sectors; Darlington and Dublin fall into Sector 100
 - From Route 24 in the West, to the Conowingo Dam in the East
 - From Harmony Church Road / Hickory in the South, to PA in the North
- Handout shows crime in Sector 100 through August, 2013
- Highlights:
 - Total calls for service are down 22% year-over-year, but this could be due to several reasons
 - Traffic accidents on handout DO NOT include those on state highways (numbered roads)
 - Part I crimes are the more serious crimes
- 100 cars were “broken in to” in Rock Spring, but most were unlocked / windows down (“crimes of opportunity”)
- As it gets colder outside, some “seasonal” crimes increase, such as burglaries
- Don’t leave your car running, even for a minute, if you are not inside
- Close your garage, lock your cars, and be aware – even for trips to the Post Office
- Rich Norling asked about data sharing between Maryland State Police and HCSO
 - Captain Meckley answered no, and neither with the municipal police dep’ts
 - These agencies use different software and databases which don’t often work well together
 - Captain Meckley added that HCSO can call the MSP and ask for help
 - But, there are only ~3 MSP troopers in Harford County at any time, so most work falls on HCSO anyway
 - MSP mainly handles traffic accidents

Update from representative of Council President Billy Boniface – Legislative Aide Andrew Tress

- Update on zoning appeals case involving Mr. Moody and his rescue dogs
 - Mr. Moody has 9 rescued huskies on his property, but is adopting no more

- Lives on 6 acres on Glen Cove Road, but property is oddly shaped
- To have a kennel in Harford County, there are specific setback rules that Mr. Moody's property does not allow
- County Council – as Board of Appeals for zoning cases – heard the case last week
 - Extended time frame to comply by 5 years
 - As most of the dogs are older, this should resolve itself within the 5 years
- Harmony Church Road – Vanessa Cassilly is upset about gravel runoff into Deer Creek
 - Tim Whittle, director of Harford County Department of Public Works, looked at it
 - Mr. Whittle determined some of the road should be paved
 - A Community Input Meeting will be held to gauge interest in upgrading sections of Harmony Church Road to tar and chip
 - Rich Norling: the Master Plan says that rural roads should remain rural, i.e. unpaved

Update from representative of Council Member Chad Shrodes – Legislative Aide Jonny White

- Legislation to form a Traffic Safety Advisory Board for the county was introduced on Tuesday
 - Based on recommendations of the Traffic Safety Task Force, which met over the last year
 - Large group, with representatives of almost 20 agencies – state and local
 - To study and implement ways to increase safety on Harford County roads
 - Councilman Shrodes was the sponsor of the original legislation forming the Task Force, and this new legislation to form the permanent Advisory Board

Presentation by Sharon Lipford, Harford County Department of Community Services

- Several documents were distributed, including info on:
 - Prescription drug takebacks
 - Senior centers
 - Several lectures coming up soon
 - Target America – a youth drug prevention program
- Handout of PowerPoint slides given to council outlining what Department of Community Services does
- Provides millions of dollars for shelters, disaster response, etc.
- Community Services gets into the community and sees what works and what doesn't, asks what people want

- Feedback is important to define plans, grant searches, etc.
- Recently heard from someone with Lyme Disease who needs a handyman
- Provides curb-to-curb transportation to medical appointments
- Work with lots of people with drug and alcohol problems
- QUESTIONS / Comments:
 - Russ Kovacs: Medicaid covers the cost of the transportation; doctors sign forms to verify disabilities
 - In-county transportation services only, with a couple of days turnaround time
 - Andrew Tress: reminded group that Billy Boniface also has Lyme Disease and will send information to Sharon Lipford
 - Community Resource Guide is available online – it is searchable (hard copies available upon request)
 - Rich Norling requested a reference copy for the Darlington Library
 - Russ Kovacs: if a restaurant doesn't have handicap access, tell Sharon Lipford or Rachel Harbin, both of the Department of Community Services
 - Example: the shopping center with JoAnn and Pier 1 has the right number of handicapped spaces, but they are too small and too far away from the stores
 - Mediation services: free services to help resolve neighborhood disputes
 - Captain Meckley: common problems caused by shared driveways, other north end-specific civil issues are sent to mediation by HCSO
- Contact information for Community Services are on last slide of handout

Miscellaneous updates

- Palmer State Park (Andrew Tress)
 - "Fell through a little" but a meeting between Billy Boniface, Barry Glassman, Mary Ann Lisanti and State Park employees will take place this month
 - Andrew Tress will provide an update at the next Darlington/Dublin Community Council meeting
 - Rich Norling is especially interested as Community Volunteer Day could help the park
 - Question was asked about the end of Lockery Road
 - Mr. Tress was unsure of the answer; he expects kayaks, equestrian activity, parking lots, etc.

- \$25,000 has been set aside by the state for Palmer State Park as a fund match
- Process is slow; need funds, planning etc.
- But, both Billy Boniface and Martin O'Malley support this project
- Will be PASSIVE recreation, not ball parks (from Master Plan)

Guests Debra and Nick Schindler – Winstone Court @ Trappe Church Road

- Emailed the county council, the board of education, etc. about concerns with new bus stop at top of street
- Disturbed that their children are picked up an hour before school starts
- “Shocking” change from when they lived in Bel Air
- Not safe – young children walking alone, in the dark before dawn, predictable for predators
- Both Councilmembers Shrodes and Boniface are working to resolve this issue with the BOE
 - Collaboration between the two groups is improving – per Andrew Tress
 - But, it could be too late to change anything involving bus stops for this school year
- Mrs. Schindler used to work for the media, investigative reporting
 - America's Most Wanted, for example
- Rich Norling explained that members of the Darlington/Dublin Community Council are selected by the County Executive
 - If Debra and Nick are interested in joining, speak with Rich Norling
 - DDCC is not a formal communications body, but it works with the administration

New Business

- OCTOBER TOWN MEETING – will impact scheduling of next month's DDCC meeting
 - Rich Norling will let everyone know
 - Delmarva Power has asked to be a guest at the town meeting
- Don Thomas requested that a left turn signal be installed at Rt. 136 @ Rt. 1
 - Jonathan White indicated that he would forward the issue to State Highway for a study
 - Mr. White will update the DDCC next month
- Darlington Apple Festival – October 5, 2013
 - 2 weeks from this Saturday – Camp Ramblewood is holding an event on the same day/time

- Traffic will be difficult – use Castleton Road if possible to avoid Rt. 1 traffic
- T-shirts and sweatshirts will be for sale at Lloyd's on Friday, September 20, 2013
 - Alexis Smith, a junior at Bel Air High School, won the t-shirt design contest
 - Stickers will also be available (reading DAR, with an apple logo)

ADJOURNED AT 7:55 PM

(Notes taken by Jonathan R. White, Legislative Aide for Councilman Chad Shrodes)